Year	Oil Production (In tonnes)
1998-99	57,020
1999-2000	1,03,650
2000-20001	2,52,081

Investment made in exploration of oil

†1735. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will me Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new crude oil wells have been explored in the country during March, 1998 to December, 2001;

(b) if so, the location thereof and the assessment made regarding the quantity of crude oil expected to be found in those wells; and

(c) the total amount spent on exploration of these oil wells?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) During the period March, 1998 to December, 2001, exploratory wells were drilled by National Oil Companies (NOCs) and private/joint venture operators in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu and also in the Mumbai Offshore, Cambay Offshore and Krishna-Godavari Offshore areas. As on 1.4.2001, the total quantity of ultimate reserve of oil assessed for new finds is of the order of 8.74 Million Metric Tonne (MMT).

(c) the total expenditure on exploration during this period, March, 1998 to December, 2001, was about Rs. 7735 crores.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.